

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 2616

Examiner: Wong, Blanche

Serial No.: 09/758,911

Filed: January 10, 2001

In Re Application of: Surazki et al.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR AN ENHANCED VOIP CALL INITIATION
INTERFACE

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on July 2, 2007, Applicant offers the following amendment and response to Office Action.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2.

Remarks begin on page 11.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for providing an improved interface to a caller during the initiation of a VoIP call comprising:

placing, by the caller, a request for information regarding a party to be called;

returning a URL responsive to said request;

displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL;

selecting at least one of said one or more connection options;

providing said URL to a protocol server;

placing a call responsive to said at least one selected connection options by entering a phone number;

routing the entered phone number to the protocol server; and

routing a session request corresponding to said one or more connection options to the protocol server.

2-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including the act of routing said phone number from said protocol server to a mapping service.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said act of returning a URL responsive to said request further includes the act of mapping, by a mapping service, said request to a URL.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including the act of providing said URL by said protocol server to an originating phone.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said act of displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL further includes the act of accessing said URL through a protocol server.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said act of displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL further includes the act of accessing a web page corresponding to said URL.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more connection options are encoded using SIP.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's identity.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's phone number.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's location.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's schedule.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said one or more connection options are modified by group scheduling software to correspond to a particular user's schedule.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including the act of routing said session request by said protocol server to a mapping service.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further including the act of executing said selected connection option.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further including the act of returning an appropriate phone number to said caller by a protocol server.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further including the act of initiating a call by said protocol server, said call corresponding to said selected connection option.

23. (Previously Presented) A device for providing an improved interface to a caller during the initiation of a VoIP call comprising:

means for placing, by the caller, a request for information regarding a party to be called;

means for returning a URL responsive to said request;

means for displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL;

means for selecting at least one of said one or more connection options;

means for providing said URL to a protocol server;

means for placing a call responsive to said at least one selected connection options by entering a phone number;

means for routing the entered phone number to the protocol server;

and

means for routing a session request corresponding to said one or more connection options to the protocol server.

24-27.(Cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 3, further including means for routing said phone number from said protocol server to a mapping service.

29. (Original) The device of claim 23, further including means for mapping, by a mapping service, said request to a URL.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, further including means for providing said URL by said protocol server to an originating phone.

32. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, further including means for accessing said URL through the protocol server.

33. (Original) The device of claim 23, further includes means for accessing a web page corresponding to said URL.

34. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein said one or more connection options are encoded using SIP.

35. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's identity.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's phone number.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's location.

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's schedule.

39. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, wherein said one or more connection options are modified by group scheduling software to correspond to a particular user's schedule.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, further including the act of routing said session request by said protocol server to a mapping service.

42. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 23, further including means for executing said selected connection option.

43. (Original) The device of claim 42, further including means for returning an appropriate phone number to said caller by a protocol server.

44. (Original) The device of claim 43, further including means for a call by said protocol server, said call corresponding to said selected connection option.

45. (Previously Presented) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for providing an improved VoIP call initiation interface, said method comprising:

placing, by the caller, a request for information regarding a party to be called;

returning a URL responsive to said request;

displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL;

selecting at least one of said one or more connection options;

providing said URL to a protocol server;

placing a call responsive to said at least one selected connection options by entering a phone number;

routing the entered phone number to the protocol server; and

routing a session request corresponding to said one or more connection options to the protocol server.

46-49.(Cancelled)

50. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 5, further including the act of routing said phone number from said protocol server to a mapping service.

51. (Original) The device of claim 45, wherein said act of returning a URL responsive to said request further includes the act of mapping, by a mapping service, said request to a URL.

52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45, further including the act of providing said URL by said protocol server to an originating phone.

54. (Original) The device of claim 45, wherein said act of displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL further includes the act of accessing said URL through a protocol server.

55. (Original) The device of claim 45, wherein said act of displaying to said caller one or more connection options corresponding to said URL further includes the act of accessing a web page corresponding to said URL.

56. (Original) The device of claim 45, wherein said one or more connection options are encoded using SIP.

57. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's identity.

58. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's phone number.

59. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's location.

60. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45, wherein said one or more connection options correspond to a user's schedule.

61. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45, wherein said one or more connection options are modified by group scheduling software to correspond to a particular user's schedule.

62. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45, wherein the act of placing a call responsive to said one or more connection options chosen by said caller further includes the act of routing a session request corresponding to said connection option to a protocol server.

63. (Original) The device of claim 62, further including the act of routing said session request by said protocol server to a mapping service.

64. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 45, further including the act of executing said selected connection option.

65. (Original) The device of claim 64, further including the act of returning an appropriate phone number to said caller by a protocol server.

66. (Original) The device of claim 65, further including the act of initiating a call by said protocol server, said call corresponding to said selected connection option.

67-87.(Cancelled)

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated July 2, 2007, claims 1, 6-7, 9-17, 19-23, 28-29, 31-39, 41-45, 50-51, and 53-66 were pending. Claims 1, 6-7, 9-17, 19-29, 31-39, 41-45, 50-51, and 53-66 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lund (U.S. Patent Number 6,658,100) in view of Morton (U.S. Patent Number 6,480,484). The office action was marked "Final".

This is an amendment submitted with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1, 6, 19, 23, 28, 45, and 50 have been amended, without prejudice, and claims 7, 29, 51 have been cancelled without prejudice. Independent claims 1, 23, and 45 have been amended to remove the implied requirement that they include the caller and that a URL is returned through transmitting a request to a mapping service utilizing a protocol similar to DNS. This does not introduce new matter, since, for example, at the bottom of page 9 of the specification:

System 300 further includes a mapping service 304. Protocol server 302 is operatively coupled to mapping service 304 through means known in the art. The mapping service may be located on another server, or collection of servers, anywhere in the network. A protocol similar in nature to DNS may be defined for communication between the protocol server and the mapping service for use in the present invention. The protocol server may be configured with the address or name of the mapping service.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of these claims and incorporate by reference the arguments made in previous amendments. Further, a DNS-like

protocol is not utilized in either Lund or Morton when accessing the mapping service. This limitation is incorporated directly into the three independent claims (1, 23, and 45) and indirectly for the remainder of claims through being dependent upon the three independent claims. Thus, for all these reasons, applicants respectfully submit that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been made, that the rejection of these claims is inaccurate, request that it be removed, and assert that all remaining claims are now allowable.

Applicants respectfully requests that this Amendment be entered. All claims should be allowable. Applicants further respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: December 3, 2007

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